



# Hutterthal Mennonite Church

Christ Centered –

Living, Relating, Serving

Sunday, February 25, 2024

9:45 a.m.

First Sunday of Lent

Prelude

Call to Worship and Prayer

\*Welcoming One Another

\*Gathering and Praising

*God of the Bible* VT #420

*Ask the Complicated Questions* VT #440

Scripture Reading

Psalm 22 Pew Bible p. 293

Sharing Time and Prayer

Children's Time

Worship Music

Prayer of Confession

Scripture Reading

Mark 8:31-38 Pew Bible 533

Message

Christ Among Us: Showing Us Faith

Offering Prayer

\*Responding and Sending

*Will You Come and Follow Me* VT #540

*Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me* VT #429

\*Benediction

Postlude

**\*please stand if you are able**

HMC Service may be viewed on our web-page:

[www.HMCFreeman.org](http://www.HMCFreeman.org)

**TODAY Feb. 25, 2024 9:45 a.m.. Second Sunday of Lent**

**Worship Leader:** Les Rensink

**Accompanist:** Amy Hofer Vetch

**Song Leader:** Randall Koehler

**Worship Music:** Chad & Rebecca Hofer

**Children's Time:** Kenneth Birkey

**Message:** Pastor Randall Koehler

**Coffee Time:** Cameron & Rina Hofer

**Children's Sunday School following the worship service. Adult**

**Sunday School following coffee time in the Education Wing.**

**NEXT SUNDAY March 3, 2024 9:45 a.m.. Third Sunday of Lent**

**Worship Leader:** Suzanne Koerner

**Accompanist:** Charlene Friesen

**Song Leader:** Suzanne Koerner

**Worship Music:** Men's Ensemble

**Children's Time:** Kenneth Birkey

**Message:** Christ Among Us: Showing Us Justice; Pastor Randall

**Scripture:** Psalm 19; Mark 2:13-22

**Coffee Time:** Rodney & Amanda Mettler

**Children's Sunday School following the worship service. Adult**

**Sunday School following coffee time in the Education Wing.**

**Calendar:**

February 28: Winter Midweek Bible Study on Zoom at 7 PM

March 7: HMC Deacon Team Meeting at 9 AM

March 24 - 27: Holy Week Services at HMC at 7 PM

March 28: HMC Annual Maundy Thursday Service at 7 PM in  
the Fellowship Hall

**HMC Congregational Ministry Project for February:**

MCC Infant Kits

Barbie Hofer has offered to purchase items and assemble the kits. If you are interested, please give Barbie \$20 per kit.

**Call to Worship:**

One: Come, you who seek God, proclaim God's glory!

**Many: All you descendants of Jacob and Rachel,**

One: come.

**Many: All who are isolated and feel alone,**

One: come.

**Many: All who wander,**

One: come.

**Many: Come, from all ends of the earth.**

*All: Come, you who seek God, proclaim God's glory, and walk in faith.*

**Prayer of Confession:**

One: Trustworthy God, we want to live with faith, yet we worry there will not be enough. We want to believe in your promises, yet we lose hope. We want to follow you, but sometimes the road is too hard.

**Many: We confess before you our unbelief, our worry, our hopelessness.**

One: Shape us into a people who will live in faith. Strengthen us so we can deny ourselves, take up your cross, and follow you.

**Many: In your grace, Lord, give us faith to believe that you will call into existence the things that do not exist. Amen.**

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Our **Lenten Visual** this week is a cross. Take up your cross. We each need to look within ourselves to see where we have allowed hatred and violence to enter in. As we gaze at the cross and visualize the image of the crucified Jesus, hopefully our hearts will be softened toward all suffering. When we can grasp God's unending love for us, we can grow in faith and let go of the things that hinder us. By doing so, we gain compassion for ourselves and all others who suffer.

**Prayer Requests and Praises:**

- **Birthdays:** Jessica Scheetz on February 25 (today) and Amanda Mettler on February 27.
- On this second Sunday of Lent, Jesus tells us to take up our crosses. We each need to look within ourselves to see where we have allowed hatred and violence to enter in. Carrying our crosses with us will hopefully soften our hearts toward all suffering.
- Pray for Spencer Bradford who was installed as pastor last Sunday at Salem Mennonite Church in Freeman, SD. Pray for God's blessing on the ministry that Spencer and Salem share.
- Mennonite Mission Network requests prayer for Jae Young Lee, Karen Spicher and their children, who live and work for peace from their home in the Peace Building in South Korea. Pray for them and all the ministries housed in the Peace Building — restorative justice programs, Grace and Peace Mennonite Church and Circle Café & Bakery.

**Pastor Randall's contact information:**

Office: call or email to make an appointment

Phone - 309-208-6032

Email - [pastorrandallhmc@gmail.com](mailto:pastorrandallhmc@gmail.com)

Office Administrative Assistant: Aprille Birkey

**OAA Hours: Thursday mornings**

Church Email: [hutterthal@goldenwest.net](mailto:hutterthal@goldenwest.net)

Church Website: [www.hmcfreeman.org](http://www.hmcfreeman.org)

Is a world without poverty possible? We invite you to join us for a look inside MEDA, where compassion meets creativity to solve some of the world's toughest problems through agriculture and innovation. Come to **Salem Mennonite (South Church) Fellowship Hall on Sunday, February 25th, 2:00 p.m.** to enjoy some coffee and dessert while Claude Clodomir from MEDA shares MEDA's vision for a world without poverty. Claude demonstrates how this happens through strategic investment in entrepreneurship and agricultural development. Clodomir is the Chief of Party for the ATTAIn project, a USAID-funded initiative by MEDA. With over 20 years of experience in international development, Claude specializes in implementing USAID-funded projects and believes in the transformative power of incentives. We welcome you to join us!

If you have any questions, you can contact Sharon Waltner at 605-661-3222.

The February issue of the **Swan Lake Christian Camp newsletter** is now available. In this issue: Information on Mary Anderson's retirement, upcoming annual meeting, staff news, prayer room update, worship center update, prayer requests and a devotional by Jerry. Go to [myslcc.com](http://myslcc.com) to view the full newsletter.

**Rural Revival** will meet on February 26 at 8 PM at the Freeman Library. All are welcome to attend.

**Kuchen making days** are scheduled for Friday and Saturday, March 1-2, starting at 9:00 a.m. in the dining hall. If you have glass pie plates we can borrow, please bring them, clearly labeled. We ask that you bring a sack lunch and join us for all or part of the day. Thank you!

**Meals on Wheels** here in Freeman is looking for more volunteer drivers. If you are able to and available, call 605-925-4000. When you are able to speak with someone at the front desk, ask for Rick to talk about Meals on Wheels.

It is the policy of Hutterthal Mennonite Church to have a **Congregation and Pastor Review** every three years. The Congregation-Pastor Review Team has completed the review document and is distributing it today. Please have reviews returned by March 3. The Review Team requests that you take the time to prayerfully consider your responses to the questions, being asked about Congregational life and the Pastor's ministry. If you have questions please feel free to contact one of the members of the Review Team: Todd Koerner, Brigitta Hofer, Monica Clem or Brandon Waltner. Please watch for additional information that will be sent out via email.

The deacons and pastor invite you to join our annual winter **midweek study** on Wednesday evenings via zoom at 7 PM. We have been learning about and discussing the continued conflict between Israel and Hamas. Our central text, I Am Not Your Enemy by Michael T. McRay, now turns to the conflict in South Africa. Our next meeting is February 28.

Everyone remembers Theo Odhiambo, who worshiped here with us at Hutterthal in 1997. Theo has reached out to us at Hutterthal to keep him and his daughter Lucille in our prayers as they accepted a mission trip back to Tanzania this summer. Working through the Tanzania Mennonite Church, they will be helping finish a new church building, hosting worship services, teaching a short course at a theological college, as well as other evangelism. The deacon team and Pastor Randall have decided to have a love **offering to help Theo and Lucille** meet their \$4500 goal for travel, lodging, food, and other evangelistic supplies. There will be an offering basket in the foyer today for those who want to contribute to Theo's cause. Thank you!

## MCC Announcements:

**MCC Material Resources Center in North Newton critically low on inventory:** An MCC kit cannot be distributed until each item for the kit is assembled, but some supplies in the Material Resources Center are so low that kits cannot be processed for shipping. You can help by filling the following needs: new infant sleepers (6-12 month sizes); bath towels (dark colored, light to medium weight); wide-toothed combs; laundry soap (such as Fels Naptha or Zote brands); shampoo (20 oz min); fingernail clippers (good quality); and hand towels (dark colored). Locally, MCC distributes prisoner care and returning citizen care kits, for those kits we currently need: men's T-shirts (sizes L, XL, 2XL, 3XL -- any color); men's underwear (sizes L, XL, 2XL, 3XL -- any color); men's crew socks; lotion (12 oz min); and adult backpacks. Buy online and ship it to MCC or bring items to MCC in North Newton (121 E. 30th St, North Newton, KS 67117). Questions are always welcome, please contact brociamueller@mcc.org or 316.283.2720. A full list of MCC kit contents can be found at [mcc.org/kits](http://mcc.org/kits).

MCC partner Team Brownsville welcomes your **gently used winter coats and jackets!** Team Brownsville seeks to share God's love by welcoming asylum seekers, including providing them with warm coats. It's as easy as collecting your gently used coats and jackets, boxing them up and shipping (up to) 70 lb./box to Team Brownsville – just follow the instructions on the poster located on the bulletin board in the upper foyer. Spring clean your closets and help Team Brownsville prepare for next winter! Have questions? Please email the MCC Central States Immigration Team at [centralstates@mcc.org](mailto:centralstates@mcc.org) and either Abraham Diaz Alonso or Becky Teiwes, will respond

Every year the **Justice and Peace Task Group** awards a peace mug to a Central Plains peacemaker. This year we are looking for a special person who has seen the plight of immigrants and responded. As God's people, we are called to welcome the stranger. Look around your congregation and community. Think about people who have found ways to bring peace and justice by welcoming immigrants. Who do you hear advocating for their rights? Who do you see welcoming them by sharing resources? Who do you see inspiring others to notice the cruelty of our immigration system? We need nominations for this special Welcome the Stranger Peace Mug Award. Send names and a brief description of why you are nominating them to Jane Y-S (wilmajane17@gmail.com). We need them by Monday, March 18.

### **A Lenten Journey: Coming Home to Love**

We are created with an inner restlessness and desire for connection with God. It is this very restlessness that accompanies us through the losses, struggles, and joys of life, finally leading us home to our true selves, God's Beloved. Please join us for a silent Lenten retreat at Die Heimat Country Inn. We will dwell together in silence in a place where, as God meets us, we will have the time and space to welcome and attend to that Divine meeting.

When: March 21-24, 2024 (Thurs-Sun)

(Check-in between 4:00-6:00 pm March 21, Check-out 1:00 pm March 24)

Where: Die Heimat Country Inn, 4434 V Street, Homestead, IA 52236

Included: 3 nights stay in a private room with a private bath, 5 meals, retreat resources, and a personal session each day (Friday and Saturday) with a spiritual director.

Cost: \$350 plus tax

To register, call June at 319-461-6611 or Ruth at 612-432-8757. (We need a minimum of 6 people to hold the retreat - maximum 12.)